



The Old School Henstead

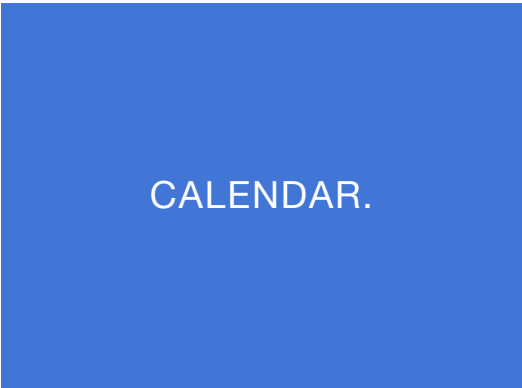
Newsletter 22 November 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

It is always possible to note an increase in anticipation at this time of the year (before the awaited Polar Express Mail delivery begins!) The stage has gone up in the hall, allowing high table luncheon for our senior pupils, but, more importantly, a rehearsal schedule for our Nativity that is already well under way. It sounds promising already - and there is Advent to look forward to in St Mary's. Much thanks to all those who have donated prizes for the forthcoming Christmas Fayre next Saturday 30 November. How many sleeps?

WJ McKinney MA Hons PgDip MA Ed



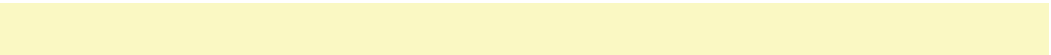


Calendar for Next Week

Monday 25 November	Book Fair continues
Tuesday 26 November	Year 1 visit to Stranger’s Hall (morning visit - back in time for gymnastics) 2.30 Nursery (pre-schoolers), Reception & Year 1 Gymnastics
Thursday 28 November	1.30 Years 2 & 3 Swimming 2.15 Years 4,5 & 6 Swimming
Friday 29 November	8.50 Advent Service at St Mary’s Henstead
Saturday 30 November	2.00 - 5.00 PTFA Christmas Fayre (stalls, games, food & Father Christmas)

Dates for your Diary

Friday 6 December	PTFA Children’s Christmas Parties
Wednesday 11 December	9.15 EYFS Nativity
Thursday 12 December	7pm Carol Service at St Mary’s Henstead (note new date)
Friday 13 December	8.50 School Nativity at St Mary’s Henstead





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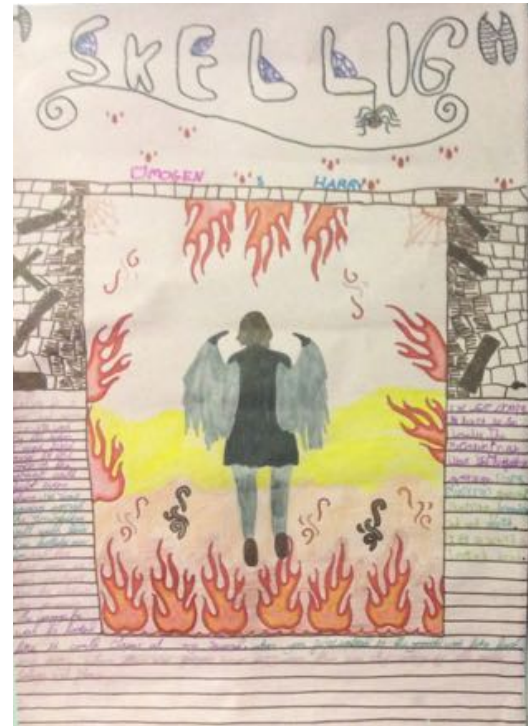
Christmas Fayre

Saturday 30th November

2pm - 5pm

Christmas Raffle, Children's Prize Draw, Stalls and
Games, Bar and Father Christmas' Grotto

Skellig



This half-term the pupils in Year 6 have been getting to know a strange creature living in a derelict garage. His name is Skellig and he is the subject of the novel we are currently reading in English. The boys and girls have been fascinated by this half-human, half-angel character and are keen to read on and discover who or what he really is.

They have been inspired to create impressively detailed drawings and descriptions of Skellig, and there have been some interesting debates about his origins. Here are a few theories:

Brayden: "I think he is a deformed angel who has fallen from heaven and lost all contact with human life."

Harry: "Perhaps he is the result of a containment breach in a laboratory."

Bonnie: "I believe he's an unwanted and abandoned hybrid."

Isabelle and Olivia think it's a great story because the writer creates a sense of mystery and the reader does not know what the creature really is until the end.

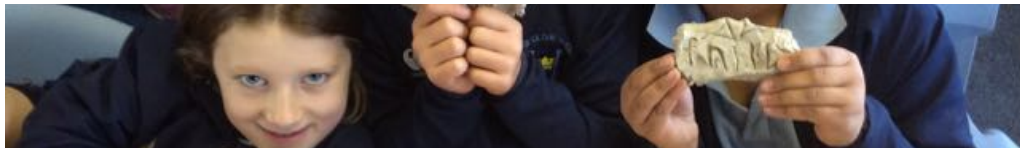
We will find out the truth as the story unfolds! The book, by British author David Almond, was awarded Whitbread Children's Book of the Year and won the Carnegie Medal from the Library Association

On a separate note, the young people in Year 6 are proving themselves to be excellent role-models for the rest of the school. They are a hard-working, caring and responsible bunch who should be proud of the start they have made to their final year. Keep up the excellent work!

Mrs Sonn



Anglo-Saxon Studies



Year 3 has been finding out about the Anglo-Saxons this term. The trip to Sutton Hoo whetted their appetites to learn more about the people who inhabited our lands from around the fourth century A.D. We have discovered that they never really went home and that many people living in Britain today have Anglo-Saxon ancestors. They were also fascinated to learn that the name England comes from the Saxon word 'Angle-Land'.

This week the children have been learning the Anglo-Saxon language, Futhorc, and finding out that many of our words today come from this ancient dialect. It has felt as though these people have been reaching across the centuries to communicate with us. A highlight for the boys and girls was writing their own names in runes on clay tablets, much in the way the Anglo-Saxons would have done, and giving fierce names to their imaginary swords to show strength and power. Bloodsword, Deathblade and Excalibur were amongst the most heroic and terrifying names.

Mrs Sonn



Fantastic Gymnastics with Year One



It's Tuesday. It's half past two . It can only mean one thing..... GYMNASTICS TIME!

It's one of our favourite times of the week when we change into our white PE tops ready to exercise every single muscle in our bodies.

Our leg muscles help with our running, hopping, skipping and jumping. Our arm muscles help with our balance and momentum. Our core posture muscles also help with our balance and body positioning for different exercises and activities. Our brains help us coordinate and judge our movements in space. Our hearts energetically pump oxygen to our muscles to help them work and get stronger.

Having a great time and getting healthy, that's what it is all about.

Mrs Loader





Reception News



Last Friday, our science lesson was all about different aspects of fire. We looked at the colours and shapes and listened to the sounds of indoor fireworks. Some of us even got to hold a sparkler. Our fascination with fireworks has led into discussions this week on how we can use fire to keep ourselves warm, now that the weather is turning colder. We used our new consonant digraphs: ch, sh, th, ng sounds to help us write words that we can associate with fireworks and winter.

In maths, we have been sorting shapes into different groups and talking about the number of sides, corners and faces of two-dimensional shapes. We enjoy using different shapes to create patterns and pictures.

With Christmas just around the corner, we have cast our Nativity. We are having fun learning some new songs and rehearsing a performance for our families that will demonstrate our confidence and understanding of the Christmas story. The week was rounded off with the excitement of a non-uniform day.
Mrs Scriven



Nursery News



The children in Nursery love mark making. They especially enjoy copying numbers and writing their names. Today in Nursery the children had fun looking for Elf's lost baubles and decorating the tree.

Nursery Star of the Week

This week John the chicken will be going home with Aurora. He was very pleased to see how well she was writing her name!

Mrs Vorster &
Mrs Webster





Boook Worms



Question from a Year 3 pupil - Why do we have a Book Fair?

Our Book Fair is a celebration of reading. A wide selection of books from different authors and different genres provide opportunities for pupils to look at before they decide to buy.

The importance of pupils making informed decisions cannot be understated.

The greatest pleasure of all as an observer, is to see and hear pupils across the age range working together in partnership with parents and teachers prior to making their final purchase. Such observations evidence a very important shared aim, to develop a lifelong love of reading.

The Book Fair continues for the first half of next week and parents may pop in at pick up time.

Miss Clifton



Non-Uniform Day



Thank you to everyone who supported our non-uniform fundraising day. The children had fun expressing themselves in a variety of delightful outfits.



AWARDS AND NOTICES.

Mascot Awards

Mascots were awarded this week to the pupils best demonstrating our school values for this half term - Resilience & Research:

Reception: Lexi for showing resilience when writing.

Year One: James for resilience when not feeling well.

Year Two: Caitlin for reflectively responding to feedback.

Year Three: Bella for showing resilience in hockey lessons.

Year Four: Rafferty for honesty and determination.

Year Five: Gabriel for showing resilience while learning a tricky mathematical concept.

Year Six: Harry D for resiliently overcoming the challenges of learning BEDMAS.

Duffle Coats, Hats, Scarves, Gloves

As the temperature is much colder now, please ensure children are sent into school with their school hats, scarves and gloves (all named please, to ensure we are able to

reunite any lost items to their owners). Our school duffle coats (or winter jackets for Nursery) also provide warmth for the children, especially with icy winds, as blazers alone are not sufficient for the heavy winter period outdoors. All these items are available from our Uniform Shop on site. May we remind parents that only school uniform clothing and accessories should be worn to school.



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